

Pewsey Rural District Council

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1946

Mr. Chairman. Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my 27th Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your district.

This report is brief and is according to instructions received from the Ministry of Health in their circular 13/47 dated 13th March, 1947.

I have the honour to remain
Your obedient servant,

A. H. WILSON,

Victoria Road, Salisbury.

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS

Population—Census 1931 : 14,292

Population—Estimated Mid. 1946—13,520

Area : 75,828 Acres

Rateable Value : £102,269

Sum represented by Penny Rate : £431 4 3

Number of Inhabited Houses as shown by Rate Books end of 1946 : 3877

Births, 1946	Male	Female	Total
Live	155	136	291 (28 Illegitimate)
Still	1	3	4

Birth Rate, 1946	England and Wales
Live	Live
Still	Still
21.5	19.1
0.29	0.53

Birth Rate	Average last 10 years	19.7
England and Wales	„ „ 10 „	15.8

Deaths : Males 85 Females 81 Total 166

Death Rate	12.2	Average last 10 years	11.3
England and Wales	11.5	„ „ 10 years	12.1

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age : Males 7

Females 14 Total 21

Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births) 74.5

England and Wales 43

Infantile Mortality Average last 10 years 44.2

England and Wales „ „ 10 years 50.8

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total death
Scarlet Fever	5	3	0
Diphtheria	1	1	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Pneumonia	8 (1 Mil)	1 (Mil)	1
Erysipelas	4	1	0
Measles	10 (3 Mil)	3 (Mil)	0
Whooping Cough	32	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	0	0

Scarlet Fever. Only five cases were notified during the whole of the year, and three of them were sent to hospital.

It has been fortunate that in this district we have been very free from infectious diseases because the Isolation Hospital at Devizes has been unable during a considerable period of the year to take in any cases owing to shortage of staff.

Diphtheria. Altogether, three cases of this disease were admitted into hospital, but two of them (one being a soldier) proved not to be the disease and so were not returned. The confirmed case was in a woman aged forty who was transferred to the Salisbury Isolation Hospital from the Military Families' Hospital, Tidworth. Without doubt the absence of this disease in any quantity for the last few years is due to the immunisation of the children which has been and is being carried out.

Pneumonia. Eight cases of this disease were notified, one being in a non-civilian. Except the non-civilian, none were admitted to hospital, and only one (in a man aged 67) died. The other deaths given by the Registrar-General were either of types which are not notifiable or had not been previously notified to me.

Erysipelas. Four cases were notified and one was transferred from Savernake Hospital where it had been sent by a Practitioner to Devizes Isolation Hospital.

Measles. The district remained practically free from this disease, only seven civilian children being notified during the whole year.

Whooping Cough. The same remarks apply to this disease, as among the thirty-two cases often several were in the same family.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. The two cases notified call for no comment.

Acute Poliomyelitis. This case was in a boy aged fifteen and in the acute stage was nursed at home. Since then his treatment has been undertaken by the County Council.

Tuberculosis. Twenty cases of all sorts were notified during the year. Of these, two were discharges from the Services, and one was a transfer from another district.

The notifications were :—

Male, Pulmonary	1 between 15 and 20
	2 between 25 and 35
	2 between 35 and 45
	1 between 45 and 55
	1 between 55 and 65
Female, Pulmonary	1 between 20 and 25
	3 between 25 and 35
	2 between 35 and 45
	1 between 55 and 65
Male, Non-Pulmonary	1 between 1 and 5
	1 between 5 and 10
Female, Non-Pulmonary	2 between 1 and 5
	1 between 5 and 10
	1 between 45 and 55

The deaths were :—

Female, Pulmonary	1 between 20 and 25
	1 aged 66
Male, Non-Pulmonary	1 between 25 and 35
Female, Non-Pulmonary	1 between 1 and 5

The female, pulmonary, aged sixty-six had not previously been notified to me.

Immunisation. During the year 1946, 203 children under 5 and 19 between 5 and 15 were immunised against diphtheria and, in addition, 53 children who had been immunised five years ago received a reinforcement dose. This brings the total done to the end of the year to 1466 under 5 and 1920 over 5, while fifty-three have had reinforcement doses. Since 1942, only two children who had previously been immunised were notified to me: one of these was a very mild case, and the other, although she showed Diphtheria germs in her throat, showed no clinical signs whatever.

WATER SUPPLY

The main water supply of this district still remains shallow wells, but a considerable number of cottages are connected with farm supplies. There are two parishes supplied by mains, namely Pewsey and Ludgershall. The former has a supply from a deep well and is the property of the District Council, while Ludgershall now takes water in bulk from a deep well situated just over the boundary of the county at Faberstown which was formerly a private supply and is now taken over by the Andover Rural District. Both these waters have been bacteriologically tested several times during the year. In the case of Pewsey it has always been free from Coli-Aerogenes, even on one occasion when it was unchlorinated. Ludgershall has occasionally shewn some

Coli-Aerogenes, the maximum number being 13 per 100 m.l. at 37 degrees Centigrade of the non-Fæcal type while three was the maximum at 44 degrees Centigrade of the fæcal type, but since January 1947, the water has shown no pollution whatever.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Pewsey is the only place with a sewerage scheme in existence and this has run smoothly during the year except for a few bad blockages of the main sewer. The reason for these blocks was discovered and the necessary action taken to prevent any further injurious matter being put into the sewers. A test bait was made under the N.S. 12 Scheme for the destruction of rats and it was found that the Pewsey Sewer was free of these rodents. Unfortunately, the long over-due sewerage scheme for Ludgershall has not yet materialised. The sewer ditches in the various parishes have had increasing attention this year with correspondingly fewer complaints.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

A regular collection of refuse and salvage has been maintained throughout the year. The amount of material salvaged was greater than the previous year, the tonnage being 95 tons, 3 cwts. and the approximate value £294 : 15 : 0.

Two ten-cubic-yard freighters and six men are employed on this work.

MILK SUPPLIES

Four new wholesale producers of milk were registered during the year. No official action was taken but a lot of work was carried out by verbal instructions.

LEGAL ACTION

It was not necessary to resort to legal action during the year.

HOUSING

Although new houses have been built in the district, there is still a shortage of accommodation, and many cases of overcrowding still exist. To ease this situation great efforts are being made to provide the necessary new houses, and "squatters" have relieved the overcrowding in many cases.

The shortage of materials and labour still makes repairs to existing dwellings a difficult problem although a number of minor repairs have been carried out with verbal action.

The following table shows the position of the Housing Survey to the end of 1946 and the provisional categories into which the houses inspected have been placed :—

PARISH	CATEGORIES				TOTAL INSPECTIONS
	A	B	C	D	
Alton Priors and Barnes	5	14	4	20	43
Burbage	24	39	55	44	162
Charlton	6	5	7	5	23
Collingbourne Ducis	5	18	11	21	55
Collingbourne Kingston	9	25	21	24	79
Enford	23	12	8	10	53
Fittleton	12	3	11	—	26
Ludgershall	146	57	15	17	235
Manningford	7	10	8	—	25
Milton	—	1	4	4	9
Netheravon	20	10	6	8	44
North Newnton	4	17	19	9	49
Oare	20	3	5	11	39
Pewsey	28	28	10	25	91
Upavon	9	10	15	18	52
Wilcot	3	2	26	1	32
Woodborough	5	14	7	11	37
	326	268	232	228	1054

PARISH	HOUSES NOT DEFINITELY PLACED IN CATEGORIES			
	B.C.		C.D.	
Alton Priors and Barnes	5	...
Burbage	22	...
Charlton	2	...
Collingbourne Ducis	14	...
Collingbourne Kingston	28	...
Enford	16	...
Fittleton	3	...
Ludgershall	21	...
Manningford	—	...
Milton	7	...
Netheravon	1	...
North Newnton	9	...
Oare	10	...
Pewsey	18	...
Upavon	6	...
Wilcot	10	...
Woodborough	7	...
		47	179	

RODENT CONTROL

During the year a Joint Committee was set up by the Marlborough Borough, Marlborough and Ramsbury R.D.C. and Pewsey R.D.C. for the destruction of rats in these areas under the Ministry of Food's N.S. 12 Scheme, whereby the Ministry bear 60% and the Local Authorities 40% of the cost for the treatment of private dwellings. A charge was made for business premises.

This scheme has worked well and good results have been obtained. The work was speeded up when the Rodent Operator, jointly employed by the three areas, received an assistant.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

	No. of Inspections.	No of Defects.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Remedied by 3.	Remedied by 4.	Remedied after Verbal instructions only.
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nuisances ...	137	70	30		29	—	35
Slaughter- houses ...	367	—	—	—	—	—	—
Knackers' Yards ...	15	—	—	—	—	—	—
Places where food is pre- pared ...	128	12	1	—	1	—	11
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkstores	86	24	—	—	—	—	24
Tents, Vans, Sheds etc.	146	4	—	—	—	—	3
Bakehouses	22	8	—	—	—	—	8
Totals	901	118	31	—	30	—	81

NOT CLASSIFIED ABOVE

Housing Inspections	...	...	...	...	1190
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	28

UNCLASSIFIED VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Water samples, drain testing, refuse collection, byelaws etc.	698

Total	1916
Total No. of Visits	2817

MILK AND DAIRIES ETC.

Number of wholesale producers registered 1946	...	...	173
Number of Retail Purveyors Registered 1946	...	...	71

MEAT AND FOODS

Weight of meat condemned during 1946	...	22,357 lbs.
Other foods condemned (tinned)	...	360 tins
Other foods ...	...	1,234 lbs.

DISEASE IN SLAUGHTER ANIMALS

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...	57	560	540	1827	110
Number inspected ...	57	560	540	1827	110
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT T.B.					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	1	5	6	8
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	18	105	3	421	2
Percentage of number in- spected affected with disease other than T.B. ...	36.84	18.93	1.48	23.37	9.09
T.B. ONLY					
Whole carcasses condemned	4	13	1	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	26	151	—	—	5
Percentage of number in- spected affected with T.B.	52.63	29.29	0.19	—	4.55

TOTAL CAUSES OF DEATH

Causes of Death	M.	F.
All Causes	85	81
Typhoid and Paratyphoid		
Cerebro-spinal Fever		
Scarlet Fever		
Whooping Cough		
Diphtheria		
Tuberc. of Respir. syst.		2
Other form of Tuberc.	1	1
Syphilitic Diseases		
Influenza	2	
Measles		
Ac. Polio-myelitis and Enceph.		
Ac. Inf. Enceph.		
Cancer of b. cav; and oesoph (M.) uterus (F.)		
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	2	2
Cancer of breast		
Cancer of all other sites	9	9
Diabetes	1	5
Intra. cran. vasc. lesions	7	10
Heart disease	22	20
Other dis. of circ. syst.	3	2
Bronchitis	2	1
Pneumonia	4	3
Other Resp. diseases	1	1
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	2	
Diarrhœa under two years		1

Causes of Death	M.	F.
Appendicitis		1
Other digest. diseases	2	2
Nephritis	3	3
Puerp. and postabort. sepsis		
Other maternal causes		
Premature birth		7
Cong. malf. birth. inj. Inf. dis.	4	5
Suicide	2	
Road Traffic Act	3	
Other violent causes	2	
All other causes	13	6
Deaths of Infants under 1 year—		
Total	7	14
Legitimate	6	10
Illegitimate	1	4
Live Births		
Total	155	136
Legitimate	139	124
Illegitimate	16	12
Stillbirths		
Total	1	3
Legitimate	1	3
Illegitimate		
Population		1,3520